

9/11
2001 - 2011

"The paradigm shifted. ... (U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft) said the Number 1 priority of my office was gun crimes. ... On September 12, the Number 1 priority was terrorism."

— PAUL CHARLTON, former U.S. attorney for Arizona

Big shift for law enforcement

Today, agencies more cooperative, proactive

By Robert Anglen
The Arizona Republic

When an African refugee carried a cellphone taped to a box through a security checkpoint at Sky Harbor International Airport last month, she caught the full brunt of post-9/11 counterterrorism efforts.

Within minutes, the woman was under interrogation by Phoenix police and the FBI.

Her story was broken down. A friend, she said, had asked her to take the box to a man she didn't know in Iowa.

Within days, authorities in two states were tracking leads and interviewing witnesses. Officers described the incident as a test of airport-screening methods, similar to one that occurred a week earlier in Memphis, Tenn.

See **AGENCIES, Page A6**

AMERICANS TIED TO NEW 9/11 PLOT?

Two of three possible al-Qaida terrorists believed to have been ordered to explode a car bomb in New York or Washington on the 10th anniversary of 9/11 may be American citizens of Arab descent, according to CIA intelligence. It's still unclear how serious the threat is. **A4**

U.S. attorney recalls 'sea change'

By Paul Charlton
As told to Arizona Republic reporter Dennis Wagner

I was shaving when my criminal chief called and said, "You need to turn on the TV." I tuned in as the second plane crashed into the tower.

It was hard to fathom, to understand exactly what it all meant. You felt wounded, even from thousands of miles away. You wanted to strike out against something. I remem-

ARIZONA STORYTELLERS

ber John McCain saying, "God have mercy on their souls, because we won't." That was my feeling, exactly.

That March, I had been named the acting U.S. attorney, so I went from working major narcotics cases to serving as boss. I really didn't

See **U.S. ATTORNEY, Page A7**

A WEEK OF REMEMBRANCE

As the nation approaches the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, *The Arizona Republic* examines what the years since then have brought: losses, lessons, reasons for hope. Read more at news.azcentral.com.

COMMUNITIES, NON-PROFITS RESCUING PARKS

Amid budget cuts, efforts help keep state parks open

By Megan Neighbor
The Arizona Republic

In the depths of the recession, state budget cuts made it seem almost certain that the gates to many Arizona parks would remain padlocked.

But local communities and non-profit organizations have banded together to keep 14 of the state's most financially vulnerable parks open by providing more than \$820,000 to the cash-strapped Arizona State Parks agency.

For example, the Friends of Tonto Natural Bridge State Park and the towns of Payson and Star Valley are helping provide \$35,000 in funding to the namesake park in Gila County.

Through a contract with Santa Cruz County, the Tubac Historical Society is helping keep Tubac Presidio State Historic Park's doors open by providing both funding and operational support.

Red Rock State Park in Sedona is being aided by Yavapai County and the Benefactors of Red Rock State Park.

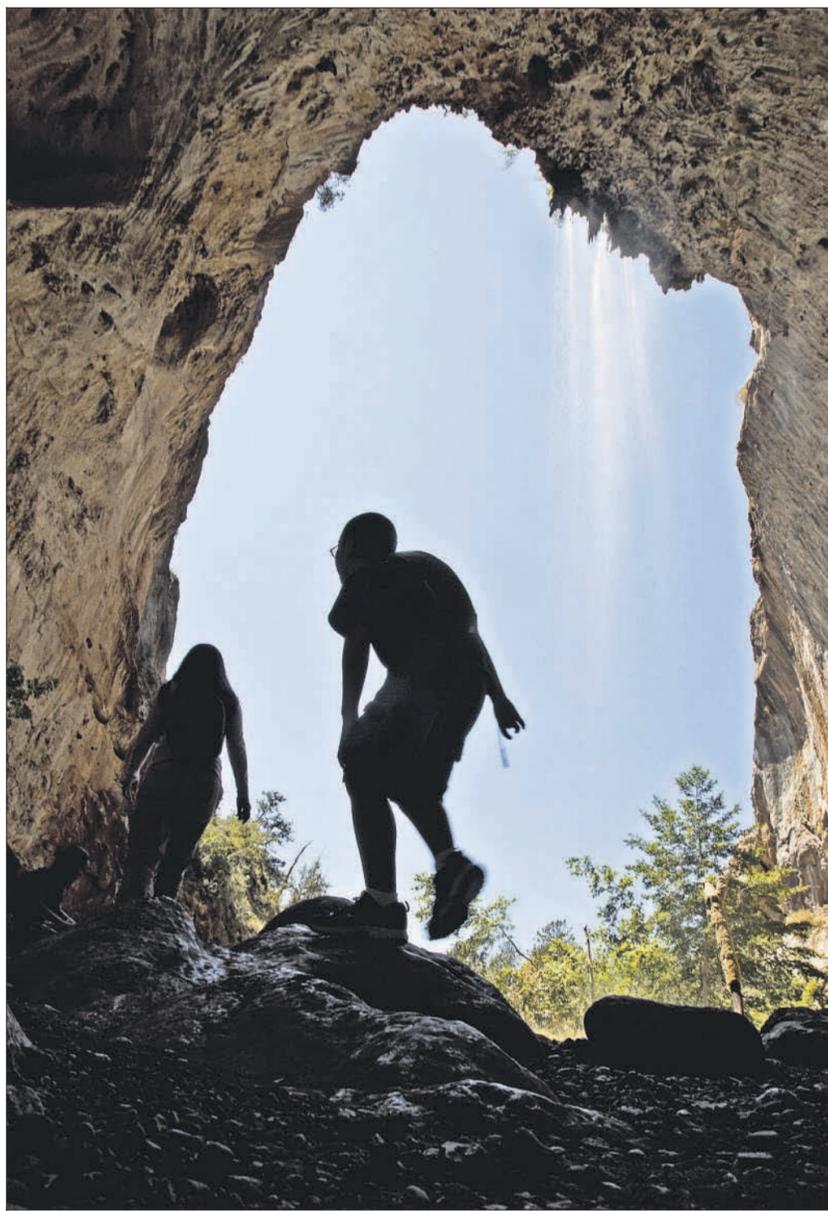
All but one of the state's other 13 parks remain open, albeit seasonally in some cases, because they take in enough revenue to stay in the black and fund their own operations.

Local authorities and non-profits say they decided to cast a financial lifeline to the more vulnerable parks because they recognize their value — their rich history, intense beauty and, perhaps most importantly, their economic impact.

Today, less than two years after major closures seemed certain, 26 of Arizona's 27 parks are open, although many have abbreviated schedules.

Some, such as Picacho Peak and

See **PARKS, Page A10**



Hikers get a close-up look at Tonto Natural Bridge State Park. It returned to a five-day schedule after being open every day from Memorial Day to Labor Day. MICHAEL CHOW/THE REPUBLIC

Personal life leads Suns CEO to resign

Welts' priorities change after declaring he's gay

By Paul Coro
The Arizona Republic

Phoenix Suns President and CEO Rick Welts is leaving the organization and is not sure for what, other than to give more priority to his personal life.

Welts says that is "so not me." He has been a metronome-methodical manager whose next move was always part of his overall plan.

Leaving the Suns and "the best job in the world," as he has called it, is leaving his comfort zone.

Welts, 58, is being more true to himself than ever before in walking away from a nine-year Suns career — with 10 months of a lucrative contract remaining.

The man who, in May, boldly became the first executive of a professional sports team to reveal he is gay is following up on his revelation by prioritizing his personal life over professional life. Emboldened by four months of support, Welts opted to be near his partner in Sacramento rather than run the Suns.

"It's taken me a long time to see some of those priorities were out of whack," Welts said. "My career has always led in life. It's been spectacular, and I have zero regrets. Now, there's something I can do that I hope is still inclusive. I'm not ready to retire."

Welts opened up about his sex-

See **WELTS, Page A8**

INSIDE THE SUNS

A difficult move for Rick Welts was made easier by the people around him. **Sports, C2**



Rick Welts

NATION & WORLD

Israeli Embassy attacked in Cairo

In a further deterioration of ties between Israel and Egypt, protesters storm the Israeli Embassy in Cairo as hundreds more demonstrate outside. Egyptian police make no attempt to intervene, and the Israeli ambassador and his family flee the country. **A4**

VALLEY & STATE

Smuggling-case plea deals: The Maricopa County attorney offers plea deals to 19 people, including three sheriff's workers, accused of helping a cartel smuggle drugs. **B1**

BUSINESS

Feds probe outage: Regulators investigate a blackout that left millions without power in Yuma, Southern California and Mexico, as the San Diego area continues to grapple with the problem. **D1**

SPORTS

Sun Devils beat Missouri in OT

Brock Osweiler (left) throws three TDs and runs for another as ASU defeats No. 21 Missouri, 37-30. The Sun Devils salvaged the game in overtime after losing a 14-point lead in the fourth quarter and surviving Missouri's late try at a game-winning field goal. **C1**

YOUR HOME

Time to plant gardens: Mid- to late September is the time to prepare and plant your garden. Warm soil is ideal for root growth, allowing plants to get established before cold weather. **HO1**



High 97
Low 80

Storms expected across the Valley. **B8**

Astrology **E5** Lottery **B2** Real Estate **HO10**
Comics **E6, 7** Obituaries . . . **B7** Television . . . **E5**
Dear Abby **E5** Opinions . . . **B4, 5** Valley 101 . . . **B8**

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9/11 Community Memorial Service

"Moving Memories – Moving Forward"
Pat McMahon, Emcee

Tomorrow, 11:30am - 12:30pm
At the 9/11 Memorial at Wesley Bolin Plaza
(Just east of AZ Capitol at 17th Ave and Adams St.)

Please join us for a unified remembrance of the 9/11 tragedy through brief interfaith prayer, symbolic presentation of "The Golden Rule" by 10 children of 10 different faiths.

". . . building bridges of understanding, respect. . ."
more info: www.AzIFM.org

Sponsored by Arizona Interfaith Movement & family members of loved ones lost in the 9/11 tragedy.